

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, GR, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: FOREIGN RELATIONS: FURTHER GOG REACTIONS TO EMBARGO VOTE

REF: ATHENS 6419

1. BECAUSE OF THE PASTING WE HAVE BEEN TAKING FROM GREEK CONTACTS ABOUT THE SENATE VOTE TO LIFT THE EMBARGO, I WENT TO DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF'S COCKTAIL PARTY LAST NIGHT A LITTLE UNEASY ABOUT WHAT KIND OF RECEPTION I MIGHT GET. I WAS PLEASED TO FIND THAT TOP GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY OFFICIALS WERE NOT AS OBSESSED BY THIS QUESTION AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC AND MEDIA SEEM TO BE. AVEROFF, FOR EXAMPLE, DID NOT EVEN MENTION THE EMBARGO IN TWO CONVERSATIONS, NOR DID THREE OF HIS TOP FOUR MILITARY CHIEFS. THE PRIME MINISTER GREETED ME WARMLY AND SAID IT WAS A PLEASURE TO SEE ME AGAIN. WHEN I REPLIED WITH A SMILE, "EVEN THOUGH WE SEEM TO BE CREATING PROBLEMS FOR YOU THESE DAYS?", KARAMANLIS RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER WE OR THEY
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WERE CREATING THE PROBLEMS, BUT THAT WE HAD TO FIND WAYS TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PROBLEMS WHICH CERTAINLY EXISTED.

2. JOURNALISTS AT THE RECEPTION, ON THE OTHER HAND, DID HAVE THE EMBARGO VERY MUCH ON THEIR MINDS. GEORGE DROSSOS, POLITICAL COMMENTATOR FOR KATHIMERINI AND ERT, TOLD ME HE HAD BEEN CALLED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT NOON YESTERDAY AND GIVEN GUIDANCE FOR

HIS COMMENTS ON THE EMBARGO VOTE "TO AMELIORATE ANY ANTI-AMERICAN REACTION." JUDGING BY THE COMMON ELEMENTS IN TODAY'S EDITORIALS (SEPTTEL), I SUSPECT OTHER JOURNALISTS WERE ALSO BACKGROUNDED YESTERDAY ON WHAT MAY BE THE NEXT PHASE OF THE GOG'S TACTICS ON THIS ISSUE: ACCEPT THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AS GRACEFULLY AS DOMESTIC OPINION ALLOWS BUT PUSH FOR MORE EXPLICIT AND BINDING U.S. SECURITY GUARANTEES AND FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF AN ARMS BALANCE BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.
MILLS

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